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From MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL. 270

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD
HELENA MONTANA

FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1966

Job Records Seen as Spring Work Season Begins

Winter Employment Exceeds Past Years—Non-farm employment in Montana during the first two months of this year started off with substantial increases over last year's totals for the same months. January 1966 non-farm employment at 174,400 was 6,100 above January a year ago. The February figure this year exceeded last year by a sizeable 5,700 for a total of 173,500 wage earners on payrolls of industry and commerce. New employment records were established for both of these months this year. It is now evident from current economic trends that the peak non-farm employment total will exceed the 190,000 mark later this year. The peak in 1965 came in August with a total of 188,300 non-farm workers.

Six Industries Ahead of Last Year—Comparing February employment this year with that same month last year, higher employment totals are shown for six major industry groups. Slight declines were noted in two others. The most pronounced job gain occurred in trade industries with an increase of 1,700 workers, 1,500 in retail firms, and another 200 in wholesale outlets. Government employment was a close second with an increment of 1,600 additional workers; state and local government posted the largest gain with 1,500 while a more modest gain of 100 was recorded at the federal level. Construction employment exceeded last year by 1,200 with 8,600 on February payrolls. Employment trends in manufacturing industries continued on the opti-

mistic side. Payrolls in this group exceeded last year by 1,000 with primary metals accounting for half of this gain. Gains of 200 each over last February were recorded in mining, and in the transportation, communications, and utilities group. Seasonal influences were mostly responsible for slight employment declines of 100 each in the service industries, and in finance, insurance, and real estate firms.

Experienced Miners in Demand at Butte—Expansion of both underground and open pit mining operations at Butte has created a demand for experienced miners and for student trainees. The search for qualified men continues on a statewide basis. Metal mining employment, on a statewide basis, was up 300 this February compared with the same month last year.

Smelter Employment Advancing—Tied closely to expansion of metal mining operations active hiring trends were in evidence at smelters in Anaconda and Great Falls. A substantial boost to the Anaconda economy comes with the announcement that an additional 300 or more men will be employed there when zinc units are made ready for operation.

Libby Dam Stirs Wide Interest—The \$349 million Libby Dam project in northwestern Montana is exciting the interest of men who follow the construction trade. The 400 foot high 3,000 feet long structure will have a 3 unit power house on the right abutment with spaces for five additional units between it and the spillway.

The Libby employment office has received hundreds of inquiries from workers both in and out of the state regarding this project. Railway and highway relocation work is expected to begin this year. Since an adequate supply of Montana labor is available for the initial phases of the project, workers are cautioned that they may find themselves stranded in the area if they arrive without a firm job commitment.

Lull in Logging—Some logging crews were temporarily idled in timbered sections of the state by spring break-up conditions. Soft road and load limits cut logging employment by about 100. Most mills continued to operate at peak capacity on stock piled logs. Increased hiring was noted at most of the major mills. A temporary shortage of box cars was short lived and had little effect on the continuity of mill production.

Good Job Prospects Ahead—The seasonal back-to-work call will gain added momentum during April and May. Employment advances in construction, manufacturing, and the trade and service industries will set the hiring pace. A heavy agenda of building, highway, and heavy construction will pick up speed in the next two months and should push total construction employment past the 15,000 mark later this year. Trade, a fast growing industry, will see more employment gains as the seasons advances. The opening of national parks, resort areas, and other seasonal facilities will create a heavy demand for workers.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE											
	Total		New Hire			Jan. 1966	Dec. 1965	Jan. 1966	Total		Quit		Jan. 1966	Dec. 1965	Jan. 1966	Layoff		
	Jan. 1966	Dec. 1965	Jan. 1966	Dec. 1965	Jan. 1966				Jan. 1966	Dec. 1965	Jan. 1966	Jan. 1966				Jan. 1966	Dec. 1965	Jan. 1966
All Manufacturing	4.3	3.5	3.9	3.6	2.5	3.4		3.9	4.0	3.7	1.9	1.7	1.4	.9	1.5	1.0		
Durable Goods	5.0	4.0	4.9	4.4	2.5	4.0		4.3	4.1	4.8	2.0	1.9	1.8	.8	1.2	1.2		
Primary Metal	4.3	6.4	2.7	3.4	2.3	.9		2.9	2.9	3.8	1.6	1.7	.4	.1	.1	.1		
Nondurable Goods	2.9	2.6	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.2		3.2	3.7	1.8	1.8	1.4	.7	.9	2.0	.7		
All Mining	7.4	6.4	8.3	2.2	3.3	3.2		7.6	7.1	8.1	3.4	3.4	3.2	1.8	1.2	.5		
Metal Mining	5.5	6.5	6.7	1.5	1.8	2.5		6.4	6.1	7.5	3.0	3.2	3.8	.2	*.2	.3		

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for February

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—Improved economic conditions reflected in increased hiring at smelter operations and announced plans for more employment expansion. Main street trade and service employment show more optimistic trends. More highway construction will be added boost to economy during summer months.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—Moderate seasonal employment upturns occurred in most outdoor industries during periods of good weather. Several building projects completed during February including college dormitory. Construction of Yellowtail Dam near phase-out. Highway construction forces at seasonal low with less than 100 employed. Trade and service holding firm at seasonal levels with some new hiring at service establishments. Temporary layoff of 45 meat packing plant workers tied chiefly to present market conditions. Passive farm labor demand will become more active during March.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—Activity in building construction exceeds past years with a high level of employment being maintained on current projects. No new projects on schedule at present. Some cutback in logging, but sawmills at fairly steady capacity. One mill expected to reopen early in March. Little change noted in trade and service employment.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—Job placements up substantially from last month and last year due to increased activity in mining and trade industries. Search for experienced hard rock and student miners continues. Opening of new motel-cafe made jobs for fifty workers. Work on \$150,000 freight terminal to start early April. Good agenda of interstate highway projects on spring schedule.

CUT BANK—Bad weather throughout much of the month restricted hiring activities in most outdoor work. Jobs in other industries were also scarce. Several large construction projects waiting for clear weather. A Browning lumber mill expected to reopen soon.

DILLON—Late winter job picture kept fairly active with some temporary interruptions in construction and other outdoor work. Building projects mostly small, but several major units totaling \$600,000 on spring schedule. Good farm

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Feb. 66	Jan. 66	Feb. 65	Jan. 66 to Feb. 66	Feb. 65 to Feb. 66
Civilian Work Force	245.8	244.8	242.4	1.0	3.4
Total Employment	229.1	230.1	224.3	—1.0	4.8
Total Non-agricultural					
Employment	202.6	203.4	195.8	— .8	6.8
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	173.5	174.4	167.8	— .9	5.7
Total Agriculture Employment	26.5	26.7	28.5	— .2	—2.0
Labor Management Disputes	.1	.1	.2	0	— .1
Total Unemployment	16.6	14.6	17.9	2.0	—1.3
Percent Unemployed	6.8	6.0	7.4		
U. S. Unemployment Rate		4.4	5.7		

labor demand with shortage of farm couples.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—Labor demand was on see-saw schedule during February keyed to weather conditions. No appreciable change in hiring in any industry group. Start of seasonal hiring should start next month. Farm labor demand on the slow side.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—Job hiring showed little activity during February due to cold weather. Main street business slowed considerably with two business closures noted. Work on one major building project and two road jobs will start when weather clears. Adequate supply of farm labor at present.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—Most segments of local economy held to firm trends throughout February. Industrial job placements more than doubled from last year. Most construction projects were on unsteady schedules at the whim of the weather. Rehiring should be in good force next month. Employment in trade, service, and manufacturing at good seasonal levels. Farm labor demand starting its seasonal expansion.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—Jobseeker total down 80 from last year due to more stable economic conditions and better weather this year. Slowdown in logging about only adverse factor in labor market. Little demand for farm labor except for work in potato cellars.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—Job placements in industry and agriculture above year ago. Outlook for summer employment looks good especially in construction and trade. Projects include water line, retirement home, and highway and bridge work. Shortage of experienced farm labor expected in March.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—Major aspects of economy kept on the move except for some weather caused slowdown in construction. Good demand existed for clerical workers. Trade employment held at average levels with some layoffs at smaller firms. Logging and mill employment at normal pace. Farm labor demand increasing daily.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—Employment up swing in aluminum production, lumber manufacturing, and retail trade highlighted job scene during the month. Increased activity also noted in finance and service firms. Some construction layoffs came when projects were completed, but total employment well above last year. Logging and mill work kept at good capacity.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—Seasonal lows evident in most industry groups. Lack of major construction work and no new job starts adversely affected main street business. Little change expected until spring work season begins. Farm labor demand set good pace with job hires twice last year's total.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—Fairly good trends covered most industry groups during February. The hiring pace quickened in trade and service firms. There was good demand for clerical workers. Applications being processed for summer employment in Yellowstone Park. Shortages of timber fallers existed. Mill hiring on unsteady basis. Farm labor demand slow.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—February job placements second highest for that month in past ten years. New bank and training center at state industrial school main construction projects. Two highway projects on schedule for spring.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.3	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.3	167.3	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	153.1	163.5	163.1	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.3	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.3	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.3	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	170.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.3	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	168.3	167.3	169.3	174.2	179.9	187.2	187.3	188.3	187.0	186.8	183.7	181.8	180.0
1966	174.4	173.5											

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for February

work. Trade employment expanding despite closure of several firms.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—Economy continues to exhibit good trends of steady growth. Mild weather permitted start of more new building construction. Logging and mill employment stayed high prior to spring break-up period, with more hiring in both segments. Good trends covered most trade firms; some seasonal decline evident in the service industries.

Polson—February job placements above all previous years since 1960. Addition of extra shifts to two lumber mills accounted for bulk of increase. Construction scene becoming more active with start of work on new motel, and plans for 52 room rest home. Farm labor demand mostly for work in potato cellars.

SHELBY—Worker callbacks noted in construction and oil field activities during February. Trade and service volume keeps at fairly good seasonal levels but little new hiring. Strong farm labor demand, mostly for livestock care and related operations.

SIDNEY—Cold weather left its mark on most labor market activities during the month. Job placements, however, stayed on par with last year. Present indicators point to good year for agriculture. Farm employers now placing orders for spring help.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—Active trends in the lumber industry dominated the February labor market. A third shift will be added to a major mill after end of the spring break-up season. Limited progress on two minor road construction projects. Farm labor demand at standstill.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—Oil field operations showed some upturn as two rigs resumed drilling and one seismograph crew moved into the area. Construction slow with most projects completed earlier. Some seasonal decline noted in trade firms mainly cafes and farm implement firms.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 765 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,126 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Feb. 1966 (2)	Jan. 1966 (3)	Feb. 1965	Jan. '66 to Feb. '66	Feb. '66 Against Feb. '65
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	173,500	174,400	167,800	—900	5,700
Manufacturing	21,400	21,700	20,400	—300	1,000
Durable goods	13,500	13,600	12,900	—100	600
Lumber and timber products	8,100	8,200	8,000	—100	100
Primary metals	3,700	3,700	3,200	00	500
Other (4)	1,700	1,700	1,700	00	00
Nondurable goods	7,900	8,100	7,500	—200	400
Food and kindred products	4,100	4,300	4,000	—200	100
Printing and publishing	1,900	1,900	1,600	00	300
Petroleum refining	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
Other (5)	900	900	900	00	00
Mining	7,300	7,300	7,100	00	200
Metal mining	4,700	4,700	4,400	00	300
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,100	1,000	900	100	200
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,500	1,600	1,800	—100	—300
Contract Construction	8,600	9,000	7,400	—400	1,200
Contractors, building construction	2,400	2,700	2,400	—300	00
Contractors, other than building	2,800	2,800	2,000	00	800
Contractors, special trade	3,400	3,500	3,000	—100	400
Transportation and utilities	16,900	17,000	16,700	—100	200
Interstate railroads	7,000	7,000	7,200	00	—200
Transportation except railroads	4,000	4,100	3,700	—100	300
Utilities including communication	5,900	5,900	5,800	00	100
Trade	41,400	41,300	39,700	100	1,700
Wholesale trade	8,900	8,700	8,700	200	200
Retail trade	32,500	32,600	31,000	—100	1,500
General merchandise and apparel	5,800	6,000	5,800	—200	00
Food stores	6,200	6,000	5,100	200	1,100
Eating and drinking establishments	7,600	7,600	7,400	00	200
Automotive and filling stations	6,700	6,800	6,600	—100	100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,200	6,200	6,100	00	100
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,800	6,900	6,900	—100	—100
Services and miscellaneous	24,200	24,400	24,300	—200	—100
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2,500	2,600	2,700	—100	—200
Personal services	1,900	2,000	2,100	—100	—200
Other (6)	19,800	19,800	19,500	00	300
Government	46,900	46,800	45,300	100	1,600
Federal	11,100	11,200	11,000	—100	100
State and local	35,800	35,600	34,300	200	1,500
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	21,500	21,600	20,800	—100	700
Manufacturing	3,200	3,200	3,000	00	200
Contract construction	1,700	1,800	1,600	—100	100
Transportation and utilities	2,000	2,000	1,900	00	100
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,700	5,600	5,500	100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,300	3,400	3,400	—100	—100
Government	4,300	4,300	4,100	00	200
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,100	24,200	23,600	—100	500
Manufacturing	2,900	2,900	2,500	00	400
Contract construction	1,600	1,600	1,400	00	200
Transportation and Utilities	2,400	2,400	2,400	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,400	7,500	7,400	—100	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,500	4,500	4,500	00	00
	3,900	3,900	4,000	00	—100

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN FEB. 1966 AND FEB. 1965

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements						UI Claims*			
	Feb. 1966		Feb. 1965		Feb. 1966		Feb. 1965		Feb. 1966			Feb. 1965			Wk. 3-4			
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1966	1965
Anaconda	151	25	58	11	268	54	367	78	66	7	73	12	40	9	49	11	164	285
Billings	596	129	704	114	2,975	790	3,403	771	315	66	381	121	362	71	433	115	1,933	2,001
Bozeman	191	26	188	23	495	136	600	130	132	15	147	10	141	17	158	12	331	358
Butte	384	65	316	55	1,316	123	1,320	273	239	7	246	42	125	3	128	20	628	749
Cut Bank	58	18	30	4	580	188	427	141	5	98	103	18	27	82	22	330	219	
Dillon	67	27	52	10	177	56	207	46	17	52	69	34	26	56	82	38	122	138
Glasgow	34	4	43	3	304	21	490	33	46	3	49	5	36	4	40	1	211	315
Glendive	52	7	66	6	285	41	303	48	20	17	37	6	23	12	35	5	181	214
Great Falls	656	104	489	61	1,806	343	1,746	391	386	124	510	86	180	119	299	32	1,235	1,360
Hamilton	44	8	60	9	326	72	406	95	19	5	24	7	28	3	31	4	243	299
Havre	64	2	104	10	331	77	480	119	43	32	75	14	30	24	54	21	236	327
Helena	177	35	184	32	472	135	661	177	115	20	135	38	116	21	137	29	437	508
Kalispell	240	35	226	43	1,525	409	1,617	410	142	7	149	19	109	6	115	18	1,241	1,183
Lewistown	70	12	65	11	328	72	413	85	21	48	69	6	34	25	59	7	251	285
Livingston	54	6	65	9	415	72	430	73	34	4	38	6	42	3	45	9	275	332
Miles City	67	9	76	9	248	42	308	63	40	13	53	6	44	20	64	15	200	210
Missoula	476	74	519	81	1,586	327	1,725	373	309	13	322	45	233	9	242	48	724	960
Polson	102	16	52	9	318	81	353	103	88	9	97	25	18	18	36	7	198	299
Shelby	47	9	57	9	255	82	232	65	18	97	115	14	22	69	91	12	204	179
Sidney	85	22	116	24	320	68	334	61	23	7	30	5	23	13	36	7	262	266
Thom. Falls	42	4	47	14	213	42	212	52	31		31	14	23		23	4	129	164
Wolf Point	35	3	34	5	379	79	383	71	21	2	23	2	14	10	24	7	248	246
Billings YOC**	216				674				166		166							
TOTALS	3,908	640	3,551	552	15,596	3,310	16,417	3,659	2,296	646	2,942	535	1,696	594	2,290	447	9,783	10,897

*Includes 854 claims of the Fed. UC Program 1,211 same a year ago.

**Youth Opportunity Center.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. (1) 1966	Jan. (2) 1966	Feb. 1965	Feb. (1) 1966	Jan. (2) 1966	Feb. 1965	Feb. (1) 1966	Jan. (2) 1966	Feb. 1965
All Manufacturing	118.61	117.42	110.84	40.9	41.2	40.9	2.90	2.85	2.71
Durable Goods	119.43	119.26	111.67	42.5	42.9	42.3	2.81	2.78	2.64
Primary Metals	120.22	116.52	111.91	41.6	40.6	40.4	2.89	2.87	2.77
Nondurable Goods	115.88	113.70	109.62	37.5	37.9	38.6	3.09	3.00	2.84
Food and Kindred Products	101.23	98.42	98.60	38.2	38.0	39.6	2.65	2.59	2.49
All Mining	123.40	122.93	117.32	39.3	39.4	39.5	3.14	3.12	2.97
Metal Mining	120.65	120.65	115.53	38.3	38.3	38.9	3.15	3.15	2.97
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	110.68	113.39	111.61	38.7	39.1	39.3	2.86	2.90	2.84

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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